

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 14607 171332Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5485

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AFRICAN BUREAU DUTY OFFICER PLS INFORM TOM SMITH SATURDAY MORNING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EINV, NI

SUBJECT: AIG CASE

REF: SMITH/EASUM TELCONS DECEMBER 16

1. FOLLOWING IS PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO BE TRANSMITTED TO GREENBERG AFTER YOUR REVIEW AND EMENDATION AS DESIRED.

2. QUOTE YOU WILL BY NOW HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO A FULL DISCUSSION WITH YOU OF THE ISSUES PENDING BETWEEN YOUR COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE FMG HAS SCHEDULED JANUARY 5, AT WHICH TIME THEY PROPOSE THAT YOU MEET IN LAGOS WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND TRADE, THE DEPUTY MANAGER OF THE CENTRAL BANK, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE NIGERIAN BANK OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, THE DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. "WHILE I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT MAY NOT FULLY SATISFY YOUR DESIRE TO MEET WITH A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, THE PROPOSED DISCUSSION WAS ARRANGED AT THE DIRECT INSTANCE OF SMC MEMBER BRIGADIER JOSEPH GARBA,
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COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS STRESSED THAT THE NIGERIANS DESIGNATED FOR THE MEETING ARE NOT ONLY THE MOST KNOWLEDGABLE OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT BUT ARE IN FACT THOSE WHO MAKE THE KEY DECISIONS IN SUCH MATTERS. WITHOUT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, BY THE WAY, IS NOT AN SMC MEMBER. AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT A MEETING WITH

COMMISSIONERS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ARRANGED SHOULD YOU SO DESIRE
FOLLOWING THE JANUARY 5 DISCUSSION.

4. " I SHOULD ADD THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST TIME WE WILL
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT THE AIG MATTER BEFORE ALL INTERESTED
NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT ONE TIME. WE HAVE BEEN LIMITED IN
THE PAST TO SEPARATE PRESENTATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL OFFICES.

5. FOR THESE VARIOUS REASONS I URGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JANUARY
5
DISCUSSIONS IF YOU CAN ARRANGE TO FIT LAGOS INTO YOUR SCHEDULE
AT THAT TIME. IF YOU CANNOT, YOU SHOULD SEND A SENIOR DEPUTY
TO HEAD YOUR TEAM. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND YOUR
ASSOCIATES, AND MEANWHILE REITERATE MY EMBASSY'S CONTINUING
DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING WE APPROPRIATELY CAN TO ASSURE
THAT YOUR COMPANY'S CONCERNS ARE RESOLVED IN A SATISFACTORY
MANNER AND WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS. WITH BEST
PERSONAL REGARDS, DONALD B. EASUM, AMBASSADOR . UNQUOTE
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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